

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Block Island School  
January 14, 2013  
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Monday, January 14, 2013, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, Ann Hall, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Robert Hicks was also in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion (Padien, Willi) to approve the minutes of the meeting held on December 17, 2012, as written carried with a vote of 5-0.

**Reports**

William Padien thanked the community for its support of the school's athletic programs, stating that parents had spoken to him about how much the students appreciate community attendance at home games.

Mr. Hicks reported that halfway through the fiscal year everything looks to be on track. Currently, he does not foresee any issues that would cause problems. A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the finance report through December 31, 2012, carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks stated that approximately one-quarter of the school was absent on Friday, December 21, which dragged down the Friday average. Most of those absent had anticipated the canceling of ferries and left the island early. However, attendance was 95.9 percent for the other two Fridays in December. Mr. Hicks asked committee members if they had questions to help him assess how well the schedule is working. Questions included how the staff is dealing with it, is the limit of periods missed by athletes being met, has the cultural enrichment program improved, is the schedule working for non-teaching staff members, have Monday and Thursday absences been reduced with the early dismissal on Fridays, have students' GPAs changed, and are students adjusting to the new schedule?

**Old Business**

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve Policy FBF: Graduation Requirements as posted for the required 30 days carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted correspondence from the New Shoreham Teachers' Association regarding the administrative proposal. The association requested a clear outline of positions and responsibilities. Additional requests included that the full-time principal/curriculum position be responsible for: implementing the new common core standards; preparing for the PARCC in math, English/language arts, and contact with other schools; writing curriculum; assisting with classroom material selection that aligns with curriculum; trained in new evaluation system; alignment of K-12 curriculum; and technology support. Mr. Hicks stated that he fully supports the association's recommendations, but doesn't believe one person can do it all. The full-time principal would be the lead organizer and responsible for making it happen. Mr. Hicks thanked the teachers for their thoughtful input on the proposal. He will work on a proposal with job descriptions for the next meeting.

### **New Business**

A motion (Hall, Connor) to approve the request from Alba Santana to home school her son, Hector, from January 2-February 11, 2013, carried with a vote of 5-0.

A motion (Padien, Connor) to approve the recommendation of the superintendent to give notice of non-renewal to one teacher carried with a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hicks submitted the first draft of the 2013-2014 budget and apologized for the error on the stipends/benefits for committee members, which was over budgeted by approximately \$11,000. Over the past several years the School Committee has given back the stipend and, if this is the case this year, the budget increase would be 2.1 percent. He explained that the town's appropriation is capped at four percent or an increase of \$176,714. However, the local funding currently requested in the proposed budget stands at 2.2 percent or \$95,871. If the committee sets aside 3-3.5 percent of the fund balance, as recommended by the auditors, there would be between \$62,499 and \$85,568 available for next year. A discussion on whether to offset the general budget or put it into the capital budget for the repair of the façade or a sinking fund for the replacement of the roof was held. Elizabeth Connor felt it would be better to apply that money to capital projects rather than offset operational expenses because of the potential budget shortfall in the future.

Mr. Hicks explained that the reduction in guidance stems from a new employee with a lower salary and who is eligible for health benefits, but does not need them. He is working on a five-year budget forecast that is required by the General Assembly this year and hopes to have it completed for next Tuesday's meeting.

Mr. Hicks reported that the proposed budget reflects the administrative changes discussed over the last several months, which reduces the superintendent's work days from 90 to 75 per year. Mrs. Connor stated that she is not comfortable cutting the superintendent's days that drastically. Pat Doyle suggested that job descriptions for all the administrative positions would help see how it could work with fewer days.

The increase in the special education budget primarily covers the transitioning of a special needs student into the full day program next year. The part-time teacher assistant position will increase to full-time. Additional equipment will be needed for support next year.

The technology budget has been decreased by the \$5000 "start-up cost" for our partnership with North Kingstown. The switch from Macs to Windows, as recommended by North Kingstown, is being investigated by the technology committee.

### **Calendar of Events**

The next budget work session is scheduled for Tuesday, January 22.

### **Adjournment**

A motion (Connor, Padien) at 8:15 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 5-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: February 11, 2013